Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 00885 091737Z

43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-11 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5953

CONFIDENTIAL LISBON 885

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, US

SUBJ: WASHINGTON POST REPORT ON GARBA PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 30983 (DTG 081343Z FEB 76), (B) LISBON 878 (DTG 091511Z FEB 76)

- 1. EMBASSY INFORMED MFA TODAY THAT USG POLICY ON ANGOLA HAD NOT CHANGED, DESPITE WHAT GOP MIGHT HAVE HEARD VIA GARBA PRESS CONFERENCE. MFA (ALVARES MACHADO) SAID FONMIN HAD NOT YET RECEIVED EITHER WASH POST ARTICLE OR REPORT ON IT FROM PORTUGUESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.
- 2. DURING MEETING TODAY WITH SENATOR PELL I ASKED SOCIALIST LEADER MARIO SOARES WHETHER GOP WAS CONTEMPLATING CHANGING ITS ANGOLAN RECOGNITION POLICY. SOARES SAID THERE WAS NO CHANGE ON THE PART OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY, BUT HE WAS AWARE OF RUMORS THAT USG WAS CHANGING ITS POLICY. SOARES NOTED THAT HE HAD ADDRESSED THESE QUESTIONS AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 8 (REFTEL B). SOARES ALSO SAID THAT FONMIN MELO ANTUNES HAD JUST TOLD HIM IN A RECENT CONVERSATION THAT HE STILL FAVORED RECOGNIZING THE MPLA, BUT WAS NO LONGER PUSHING HARD FOR IT. SOARES REITERATED THAT SOCIALISTS WOULD STAND FIRM. ADDED, HOWEVER, IT IS HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LISBON 00885 091737Z

PERSONAL BELIEF THAT MPLA WILL WIN. I REITERATED ONCE AGAIN

OUR PREVIOUS ASSURANCES TO INFORM SOARES AND GOP BEFOREHAND
IF WE CONTEMPLATED ANY CHANGE IN OUR POSITION.
CARLUCCI

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